

Record

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Long Beach church rises from destruction

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Not so long ago, Pastor LaRue Stephens was walking the ruins of First Church, Long Beach, counting up the costs of taking a direct hit from Hurricane Katrina. These days, he's counting down the days until the church occupies their new facility.

The church's congregation voted to relocate from their longtime location on the beach of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, after Katrina dealt a devastating blow to the facilities there. They decided to move inland and purchased 17 acres along North Cleveland Avenue that previously served as a family-run flower nursery for gladiolas and irises.

Completion of Phase 1 construction, a 60,000 square-foot complex that will include a two-level multipurpose building to house a temporary sanctuary as well as modern facilities for weekday ministries, preschool, children, youth, adults, and office staff, is scheduled for the

summer of 2008 at a cost of about \$16 million. That includes full furnishings and outfitting the new kitchen.

The multipurpose area of Phase 1 will initially house the sanctuary until the permanent sanctuary can be built during the next stage of construction. "The church's vision is to go right into Phase 2, which will include the new sanctuary and fellowship hall," Stephens said.

God has been faithful to raise up leadership and financial resources for the relocation and initial construction, while the church has maintained their faithful giving to the Cooperative Program and missions offerings, Stephens pointed out.

"The church was well-insured," he said, "but even with the insurance, only about half of the post-Katrina building costs will be covered. We know God will open doors to provide what we need."

The construction is being handled by Gary C. Wyatt General Contractor LLC, of Birmingham. The company has an extensive background in church construction, having served as general contractor for Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, and for a number of large churches in Alabama.

Alabamian Martis Wyatt (no relation to the company's owner) is serving as con-

struction superintendent for the First Church, Long Beach, project, while fellow Alabamian Russ Stone is serving as project manager.

Stephens said the church believes the North Cleveland Avenue area is ideal for future ministries. The area is booming with post-Katrina construction, and the church property is just across an adjacent street from a large public school academic and athletic complex. Plans are already underway to expand North Cleveland Avenue into a major north-south artery to handle the traffic.

"St. Patrick Episcopal Church has bought the lot next door to the church," Stephens added.

Stephens, who is in his 11th year as pastor, said the church lost about 200 of their regularly-attending families after Katrina — but people are beginning to come back.

"In the midst of it all, God has been so faithful," he said.

Volunteer teams of skilled and unskilled laborers, as well as financial support, are still needed for the Hurricane Katrina recovery effort. Interested churches can contact David Baldwin at Gulf Coast Association in Gulfport at (228) 832-4311. E-mail: gcba@cableone.net



GOING UP — The first of many concrete walls at the relocated site of First Church, Long Beach, is erected as construction continues on the 60,000 square-foot Phase 1 of the church's master rebuilding plan. (Special photo courtesy of Monnie Shirley)



MAKING PROGRESS — LaRue Stephens (right), pastor of First Church, Long Beach, checks in with Superintendent Martis Wyatt (left) and Project Manager Russ Stone of Gary C. Wyatt General Contractor LLC of Birmingham, on the progress of construction at the church's new site on North Cleveland Avenue in Long Beach. The church's congregation voted to relocate from their longtime location on the beach after Hurricane Katrina destroyed the church complex. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS



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A worldwide scam on the World Wide Web

Beloved in christ, Calvary Greetings in the Name of our lord Jesus Christ, I have been briefed to contact you because of passion for humanity and sympathy for people with just causes. I am a new Christian convert, suffering from long time cancer.

From all indications my condition is really deteriorating and it is quite obvious that I won't live more than six months. It has defiled all forms of medical treatment, and right now I have only about a few months to live, according to medical experts. I have not particularly lived my life so well, as I never really cared for anything but my business. Though I am very rich, But now I regret all this as I now know that there is more to life than just wanting to have or make all the money in the world.

I want God to be merciful to me and accept my soul so, I have decided to give alms to charity organizations and those in Need, as I want this to be one of the last good deeds I do on earth. So far, Now that my health has deteriorated so badly, I cannot do this myself anymore. The last of my money

which only my Attorney knows of is the huge cash deposit of Five Million United States Dollars (\$5 000, 000.00) that I have with an Asset Management / Vaulting Company Abroad. I will want you to help me collect this deposit. I am willing! to donate this 5 million U.S dollars to you for the less privilege and for practical Christian service and concern.

And upon my instruction, my attorney, who presently is in Accra Ghana distributing relief materials to victims and an application for the transfer of the money in your name. Lastly, I honestly pray that this money when it get to your hand will be used for the said purpose. So if you know that you will use this fund honestly for things that will glorify God's name

and purpose of God's work, then do urgently contact me back and the details will be given to you on how you will be able to receive the fund.

Anyone with a computer and an e-mail address has likely received at least one such plaintive message lately — if not a whole slew of them. At The Baptist Record, the count for just this year is several hundred such messages.

The names and reply addresses may be different, but the point is always the same: The writer is a rich but dying new Christian, always overseas, seeking to give away his fortune to someone who will use it properly to ensure his entrance into heaven. All that need be done is to contact the writer for instructions on how to transfer the money.

If the recipient does reply, he/she is usually told to withdraw a substantial sum of money from their own bank account and send it to the writer, so that the writer's money can be freed up. Then, according to the writer, all of the recipient's money plus the newfound fortune will be sent back to the recipient.

It all sounds too good to be true, and it is. These are Internet scams of the highest order.

"The scheme relies on convincing a willing victim, who has demonstrated a 'propensity for larceny' by responding to the invitation, to send money to the author of the letter in Nigeria in several installments of increasing amounts for a variety of reasons," reports the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), referring to a particular scam that originates in the African nation of Nigeria.

"Payment of taxes, bribes to government officials, and legal fees are often described in great detail with the promise that all expenses will be reimbursed as soon as the funds are spirited

out of Nigeria. In actuality, the millions of dollars do not exist and the victim eventually ends up with nothing but loss," the FBI states.

"Once the victim stops sending money, the perpetrators have been known to use the personal information and checks that they received to impersonate the victim, draining bank accounts and credit card balances until the victim's assets are taken in their entirety. While such an invitation impresses most law-abiding citizens as a laughable hoax, millions of dollars in losses are caused by these schemes annually," the FBI warns.

There are many variations on this Internet scam, some involving the expressed desire to plant new churches, donate large sums to a seminary, or provide Bibles to people groups who have none. It's hard to believe folks fall for such a pitch but, according to the FBI, it happens often.

It's particularly egregious when Southern Baptists fall prey to such artifice, because we already have the best system in the Protestant world to fund such mission endeavors. We don't need to respond to scams foisted on us in the Name of the Lord to accomplish our duty under the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

Southern Baptists have the Cooperative Program, the missions offerings, and many other ways to support the spreading of the Gospel that have been proven effective and cost-efficient. If there are any doubts about whether a program is worthy of our involvement — spiritually as well as financially — we must be willing to do the research and ask the hard questions to be sure the cause is legitimate.

Don't waste your money. Don't waste the Lord's money. Don't respond to these scams. Do the right thing.

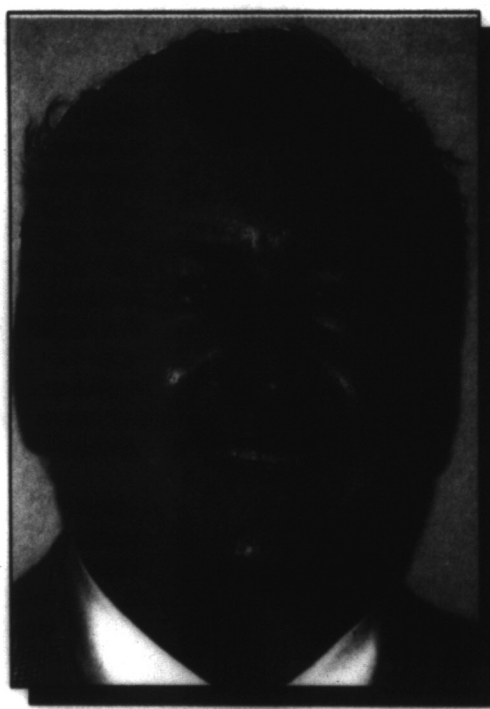
Ken Hall tapped for MBCB Discipleship/Family Ministry

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Kenneth L. (Ken) Hall, associate pastor and minister of music at Brownsville Church in Brownsville, Tn., has been approved by the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) to serve as consultant for student discipleship and student coordinator in the board's Discipleship and Family Ministry Department.

Hall has an extensive background in music and student work at Mississippi Baptist churches, having served in Columbus, Yazoo City, Slate Springs, and Water Valley.

"His work in student ministry has been especially impressive," said Marcus Peagler, MBCB discipleship and family ministry director. "Through academic preparation, ministry experience, spiritual gifts, and personal com-



Hall

mitment, Ken is uniquely qualified to render significant service to Mississippi Baptists."

Hall, a native of Pine Bluff, Ar., holds a Master of

Religious Education degree (1982) from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, and a Bachelor of Recreation Leadership degree (1980) from the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

In addition to his position in Brownsville, Tn., he has been minister to students at First Church, Columbus (1989-2001), where he was ordained to the Gospel ministry; minister of youth and activities at First Church, Yazoo City (1983-1989); minister of music and youth at Riverside Church in Stephenville, Texas (1980-82); minister of music and youth at Bethany Church, Slate Springs (1979-80); and interim minister of music and youth at First Church, Water Valley (1978).

While in Columbus, he served as pastor advisor for the Baptist Student Union at

Mississippi University for Women and as Old/New Testament instructor at Heritage Academy.

He is married to the former Jerri Sue Clower of Yazoo City. They are the parents of two children: Payne, age 17, and Mary Paige, age 13.

"We are indeed excited about Ken Hall serving through MBCB. Ken's education and past ministry service are strengths related to our present ministry needs."

"Ken will be on board October 1," Peagler said.

"My family and I are looking forward to coming back home to Mississippi," Hall said. "I consider it an honor to be asked to serve in this position and am excited about serving Mississippi Baptists."

Hall can be contacted after October 1 at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3286, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 286. E-mail: khall@mbcb.org.

Baptist churches spend summer in Mexico

By Joe Young, pastor
Calvary Church, Parchman

It started as a one-time effort to involve church members in missions and to teach them more about how missionaries work to bring people to God. Fourteen years later, volunteers have completed the fifteenth "annual" trip to Mexico.

In fact, 22 missions to Mexico have been made. In the process these volunteer missionaries have been transformed into a group of people who see needs all around them and are determined to do something to answer those needs — right here at home.

The work has spread beyond Mexico. Church members today have been involved in hands-on missions work from Central and South America to Eastern Europe. From the more than 1,000 people who have made the Mexico trips, some of them are now career missionaries or short-term volunteers on most continents.

Since 1993, the work in Mexico has directly resulted in 1,262 persons accepting Christ as their Savior; 145 of these decisions were made this year. Several new church congregations also have resulted from these missionary efforts. This is the result not of a large church but of a church with fewer than 80 members that has committed itself to allowing God to enrich its members' lives and use them for His purposes.

Calvary Chapel, Parchman, which serves the Mississippi



RAIN GO AWAY — Members of the mission team to Mexico organized by Calvary Church, Parchman, brave heavy rains to conduct a Vacation Bible School session during the mission trip. The 2007 mission trip drew volunteers from 20 Mississippi Baptist churches and three churches from other denominations. (Special photo)

State Penitentiary staff population and their families, sponsored two teams in July totaling 111 persons on this journey to northeastern Mexico. Twelve people served in Ebano which is west of Tampico. The other 99 people served in and near Matamoros, which is not far from Brownsville, Texas.

During that week, the volunteers taught 637 children in Vacation Bible Schools and enrolled 45 children in sports camps. A medical team staffed four clinics; 364 patients were examined and 657 prescriptions filled. An optometrist fitted 45 pairs of eyeglasses. A veterinarian performed exams on pets and vaccinated them.

Bibles were distributed to more than 300 people by a member of the Gideons, a group of lay businessmen who have been involved in giving Bibles for many years. Other members of the group bought and distributed another 200 Bibles.

One construction team built roof trusses and placed the first-ever roof on a church in Ebano. Another team built tents for temporary meeting places for new congregations of believers.

The group of Baptists from Parchman never dreamed that they would make such a difference. Working with other Baptists to distribute pre-natal vitamins to expectant mothers in that area of Mexico, they have seen the infant mortality rate drop from 65% to less than 10%.

They have also involved people from scores of other churches and denominations in the effort. These volunteers continue to work with the group from Calvary Chapel but have also begun their own work in Mexico and at other locations around the world.

This year, 23 churches had participants in missions on the trip. They included 20 Southern Baptist churches, one independent Baptist church, one United Methodist church, and one Presbyterian church.

172nd Mississippi Baptist Convention October 30-31 — First Church, Jackson

Hotel/Motel Rates, effective October 28-30
(Be sure to tell them you are attending the Mississippi Baptist Convention.)

Best Western Executive Inn
\$79.95 single or double per night + tax
(601) 969-6555
725 Larson Street, I-55 to High Street, Exit 96-B

Edison Walthall
\$80.00 single or double per night + tax
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225 E. Capitol Street, I-55 to Pearl Street, Exit 96-A

Holiday Inn Express
\$89.95 single per night + tax
\$95.95 double per night + tax
(601) 948-4466
310 Greymont Avenue, I-55 to High Street, Exit 96-B

Regency Hotel & Convention Center
\$69.00 single or double per night + tax
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400 Greymont Avenue, I-55 to High Street, Exit 96-B

Quality Inn & Suites
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400 Greymont Avenue, I-55 to High Street, Exit 96-B

Hampton Inn
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(601) 352-1700
320 Greymont Avenue, I-55 High Street, Exit 96-B

Red Roof Inn
\$44.99 single or double per night + tax
(601) 969-5006
700 Larson Street, I-55 to High Street, Exit 96-B

Looking back

10 years ago

In a historic vote, trustees of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention approve recommending LifeWay Christian Resources of the SBC to the denomination as the new name of the 106-year-old agency.

20 years ago

Attempts by conservatives to dismiss N. Larry Baker as executive director of the Christian Life Commission fail on a 15-15 vote. Joe Atchison, director of missions for Benton Association, Rogers, Ar., makes the motion to dismiss Baker immediately.

30 years ago

Forest Church, Forest, baptizes 55 people at the closing night of their revival. The revival was led by Cliff Brannon and family, Longview, Tex. J.F. Brantley, pastor.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

SEPTEMBER 20, 2007

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No. 37

OSCAR THE CAT

If you have missed seeing, meeting, or reading about Oscar the Cat over the past few months, you must have been on a trip to another planet. This famous feline has been all over the news. Bless his heart, Oscar has gotten more coverage than the misbehaving mob from Hollywood — Lindsay, Paris, Nicole, and the list goes on with their headline-catching antics. Oscar pushed them off the headlines, and at least for a while he got more commentary and attention than any of them did. I know that has to be discouraging to have highly paid PR people wanting to grind out information to keep you front and center as a conversation piece and have a cat push you aside.

Oscar is not just an ordinary cat. This cat is the one that over the last couple of years has become the four-legged, breathing, meowing monitor of death at a nursing home. They say that over two dozens times Oscar has walked along in the halls of the nursing home, stopped at a room, gone in, and made himself at home. Within a

few hours, the patient would expire. What he was doing was so shocking and actually amazing that Oscar was written up in some medical journals.

Now, the doctors who have been watching this phenomenon take place really do not know what is going on and how Oscar knows that death is at the door. Some have said that because of a cat's sensitivity to human nature that Oscar may notice the difference in the demeanor or attention given by the staff to the patient. Others discount that and think possibly a cat's hearing is so keen that he can detect a difference in the body's process and that death is occurring. Still others have speculated that a cat's sense of smell is so sensitive

that he picks up on the change that occurs in a body as it is gradually failing.

It is hard to understand because the doctors who are attending these death experiences say that his predictions are a lot better than theirs. While Oscar has become a star in the news and everybody across the nation has been hearing about him and wondering about his unique abilities, one thing is probably assured and that is the folks at the nursing home must stay on alert as to when and where Oscar goes to take a nap.

Now while Oscar has received a lot of attention because of his special prophetic gifts, the reality is that every one of us live within a limited capsule called life. The Scripture

says, "It is appointed unto man once to die" (Hebrews 9:27a). Regardless of whether you ever see or know Oscar, you need to be prepared and the time to get ready is right now. God has made all of the provisions for us to have life now and life everlasting in His Son, Jesus Christ. Today can be the day that you come to know Him if you repent of your sins and trust Him. Today you can begin to live in the peace of God knowing that if this were your last day here, there is an eternal day that awaits you with the Lord in glory. You can live in joy knowing that He will never leave you or forsake you. You can live with the buoyancy of hope filling your heart knowing that in the Lord every day forevermore is going to be better.

So regardless of what Brother Oscar is doing today, you do not have to worry about his whereabouts. You do not have to keep an eye on Oscar, but rather keep your eyes focused on Jesus.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205—0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Visit the Baptist Record online at www.mbcb.org.

STAFF CHANGES



2. Phillipson family

1. Macedonia Church, Lee County, recently called Terry Faulkner as pastor. He comes from the Long View Community, Pontotoc.

2. Branch Church, Morton, called Timothy "Bobo" Phillipson as pastor Aug. 19. Shown are Phillipson, Logan Phillipson, Brady Phillipson, and Stacie Phillipson.

Women's Conference

NEW HEBRON BAPTIST CHURCH
SATURDAY, 9/29
8:30 am-2:30 pm
includes continental breakfast & lunch

Speaker: Mrs. Carolyn Ford, Memphis, TN

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Dean, The College at Southwestern • Former Muslim

Monday 7:00pm • Junior Hill

Evangelist, Hartselle, Alabama

Tuesday 7:00pm • Johnny Hunt

Pastor, First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Georgia

Wednesday 7:00pm • John Avant

Vice President of Evangelization

North American Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention

All service will be broadcast live on

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 20, 2007

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



Mississippi Baptist STATE LITERACY MISSIONS CONFERENCE



October 4, 1 p.m. - October 6, 1 p.m.
Camp Garaywa, Clinton

- **Basic Adult Reading and Writing**
(Begins at 1 p.m. on Thursday)
- **Basic English as a Second Language**
(Begins at 1 p.m. on Thursday)
- **Tutoring Children and Youth**
(Begins at 1 p.m. on Thursday)
- **Experienced English as a Second Language**
(Begins Friday at 10 a.m.)
- **Chronological Bible Storying**
(Begins Friday at 10 a.m.)

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: September 26, 2007
Register at www.mbc.org

For more information, contact Paula Smith at MBCB
1-800-748-1651, ext. 336, or E-mail: psmith@mbcb.org

PROGRAM PERSONALITIES

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Magee, Miss.
Retired School Librarian
and Trainer for Book Systems, Inc.

KARY BARTH

McKinney, Texas
Regional Manager
Kapco Book Protection

MARY BROUSSARD

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Library Ministry Team Leader
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PEGGY TACON

Mobile, Ala.
Library Ministry Team Leader
Dauphin Way Baptist Church

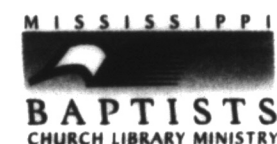
MARTY WOODALL

Deatsville, Ala.
Library Ministry Team Leader
Shoal Creek Baptist Church



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OCTOBER 5-6, 2007
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SPECIAL GUEST: Dinner Speaker

Lori Copeland, began her writing career in 1982, writing for the secular book market. After several years of writing, Lori sensed that God was calling her to use her gift of writing to honor Him. To date, she has more than 95 books published. Learn more about our author from her Web site: www.loricopeland.com.



For more info, contact Judy Chen, Communication Services, 1-800-748-1651, 601-292-3378, or jchen@mbcb.org

2008 MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST ALL-STATE YOUTH CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA

Audition Dates (in 2007 for 2008 CHOIR - Open to 9th-12th Graders)



Saturday, September 15
Baptist Building, Jackson
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Sunday, September 23
Immanuel BC, Natchez
2 - 4 p.m.

Monday, September 24
FBC, Summit
4 - 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 29
North Oxford BC, Oxford
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Sunday, September 30
Hernando BC, Hernando
2 - 4 p.m.

Tuesday, October 9
FBC, Winona
4 - 7 p.m.

Thursday, October 11
Fairview BC, Columbus
4 - 8 p.m.

Saturday, October 13
FBC, Meridian
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Saturday, October 20
William Carey University,
Hattiesburg
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Sunday, October 21
Grace Memorial BC, Gulfport
2 - 4 p.m.

Sponsored by the Church Music Department, MBCB. For more information, call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 266, cwtaylor@mbcb.org, or visit www.mbc.org for registration form and audition preparation info.



Will Reedy
Benny Proffitt
Richard Ross

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Overnight

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on Friday and ends at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

For more info: wMu 601-292-3316, 1-800-748-1651
or lhatch@mbcb.org

2007

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September 23, 5:00 p.m.

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Saturday, October 27, 2007
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Cost: \$20

Registration Deadline 10/23

Lunch will be provided.

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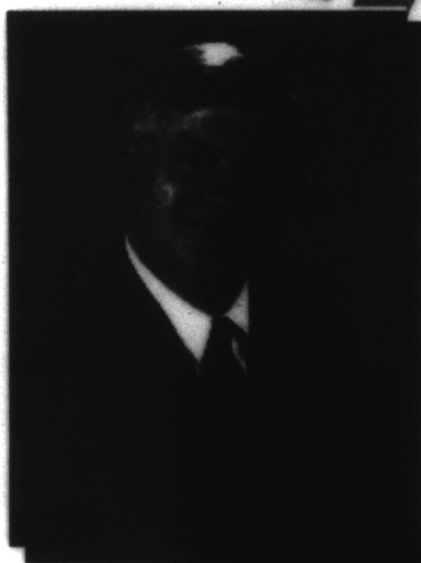
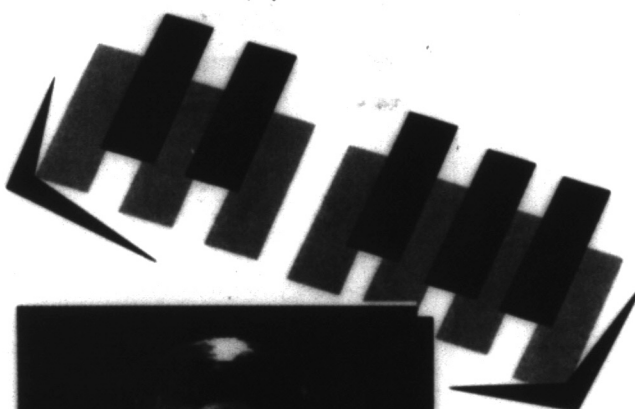
Playing from lead sheets

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Music: *Ever Praise*



Monday

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Conference

Enjoy the sweet
spouses along with
Following luncheon
Wives Conference
with special speakers
Pre-reservations
Lunch and Registration

For more information
Kathy Burns (kbburns@mbcb.org)
conference, contact
Kay McDonnell (kaymcdonnell@mbcb.org)



2008 BAPTIST DOCTRINE STUDY

preview brunches

with Matt Buckles

First Baptist Church, Vicksburg, pastor

Monday, January 28, 9 a.m.-noon

Central Hills Baptist Retreat

Thursday, January 31, 9 a.m.-noon

Patterson Place, Camp Garaywa

Preregistration is requested by January 18. The \$10 registration fee includes the full brunch and LifeWay's new study course book, **THE BAPTIST FAITH & MESSAGE** by Charles S. Kelley, Jr., Richard Land and R. Albert Mohler, Jr. (2007).

For more info: Discipleship & Family Ministry Dept.
601-292-3287, 1-800-748-1651 or dhicks@mbcb.org

ISSUES FACING PASTORS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

A presentation and dialogue sponsored by

- Pastor/Leadership Development Dept. (MBCB)
- New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
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TOPICS

- Church Growth
- Worship Trends
- Church Governance
- Leadership Issues

Open to all
Presentation of
D.M. program

October 1 – Blue Mountain College
October 22 – William Carey University
October 23 – Mississippi College
Time (all locations): 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Lunch provided by the Pastor/Leadership Development Department

Register by contacting Kay McDonnell at 601-292-3305,

Fax 601-714-7426

or kmcdonnell@mbcb.org.



Monday, October 29, 2007

CAMP GARAYWA

Brunch: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Conference: 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The sweet fellowship of pastors' wives and other ministers' brings with good food while listening to EverPraise. Brunch in the Garaywa Dining Hall, the Ministers' Conference begins at 1:30 p.m. in the Garaywa Auditorium. Speaker, Rita Sweatt.

Reservations for lunch are required. Cost: \$7 per person. Registration Deadline: Monday, October 22.

For more information about lunch, contact wMu Department, kmc@mbcb.org or 601-292-3324 or about the conference, contact Pastor/Leadership Development Department, kaymcdonnell@mbcb.org or 601-292-3305

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Little Rock,
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Dean Abernathy
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• **Share Jesus Without Fear**
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Military Baptist Church
Sumrall

• **GROW**
John Clendinning
Sunday School Department
MBCB

For more information, contact the Sunday School Department at 1-800-748-1651, ext 291, or in Jackson at 601-292-3291, or E-mail cday@mbcb.org.

Time and Place

6:30-8:30 p.m.
(time for **two** workshops)

October 8
Crossgates BC
Brandon

October 9
FBC, Pontotoc
October 11
FBC, Summit

Pray this day for...

September 21- October 4, 2007

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in Glory by Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:19

The Chuabo Team of Mozambique covets your ongoing prayers for a couple to come help them with the work in Pebane, as their other responsibilities are limiting the amount of time they can spend in this new work area. Please petition the Lord for the harvest to send His laborers to this field to help the team.

Pray for missionary L as she adjusts to the death of her close friend T, the first and only believer in the village. T was a "person of peace" (Luke 10:6) in the village, as well as training. Pray that God will provide and a person of peace to walk beside L in the village.

Many places in the Philippines still need workers to come and live among the people, sharing the gospel with them and developing sustainable groups of believers. Some of these places are labeled "unreached" and are just hard to reach. These areas are the focus of Pathways Teams. Pray for Pastor J and the Missions Mobilization Team as they look to connect those who are called.

(1) Church Related Vocations Banquet, Mississippi College, Clinton (P/LD); (2) CITY OF DUMPLING HEAVEN, EAST ASIA. Please pray that the believers who receive a special church-planting training will receive it and obey the Father's call to share with the lost. Pray also that as they share with the lost and teach fellow believers, they will only teach what is in accordance with God's Word.

(1) Winston Association Mission Emphasis; (2) August in Haiti is usually pretty, rainy, green, prolific with avocados and other foods. Pray that the Haitian storying and church leaders will have that same evidence of abundant life and fruits of the Spirit, as they tell others of Christ and seek out new locations for Chronological Bible storying.

(1) Student Day, Baptist Building, Jackson (P/LD); (2) Ruby Swanigan, Pine Bluff, Ark., is a chaplain at Cummins Prison and also serves with the deaf ministries of the Arkansas Convention. Pray for the inmates and for wisdom for chaplains and volunteers. Also pray for more ministries of for the deaf at Bethel Deaf Church in Fayetteville.

(1) See You At The Pole Day (D&FM Youth Emphasis); (2) CELTIC-SPEAKING PEOPLES OF WESTERN EUROPE. Please pray for W and E, as they have begun to see friends from W and E and are beginning to really be accepted in their community in many exciting ways. Pray that these relationships will be the bridges that will lead to faith in Christ.

(1) Baptist Building AT HOME DAYS, 3rd - 5th; (2) Campers on Mission, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko, 3rd - 7th (MM); (3) Pray for N who is the only Christian at her workplace. She wants to share her faith more, but is very shy. Pray for other Christians to visit her business who will encourage and challenge her in her faith. Pray for spiritual fruit in her workplace.

(1) 4 State Senior Adult Retreat, Longview Heights BC, Olive Branch (D&FM); (2) Church Related Vocations Banquet, Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, (P/LD); (3) Pray for the fruitfulness of a children's leadership ministry training in a Southeast Asian country.

(1) State Literacy Training, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 4th - 6th (WMU); (2) Mike Purple of Fairbanks, Alaska, is a Baptist campus minister. At the Baptist Campus Ministry, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Mike Licona will hold an apologetics conference. Pray for a good response from the students and their ability to follow up on decision making.

(1) GA Mother/Daughter Overnight Camp Garaywa, Clinton (WMU); (2) Birthday Luncheon for Baptist Building personnel; (3) John Williams is serving as a volunteer police chaplain with the Jacksonville Port Ministries to the Celebration Ship (Carnival Cruise Line). Pray for the Bible studies that are being started on the ship.

(1) State College Student Conference, Ridgecrest BC, Madison, 28th - 29th (CLGM); (2) Mississippi Baptist Conference for the Deaf, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 28th - 30th (MS).

DECCANI MUSLIMS OF INDIA. There have been reports from all over this area of people bringing charges against Christian evangelists for "forcing" people to Christianity even using a gospel tract and discussing with people about Jesus Christ is being twisted into "coercing people to convert." Please pray for brothers and sisters in Christ who, in spite of imprisonment, are still proclaiming Christ.

NORTHERN PEOPLES OF GHANA. Pray for evangelistic outreach among people from northern Ghana who have moved to the Ashanti and Brong Ahafo regions of the country. Recently two student pastors from a Ghana Baptist theological seminary, from the north themselves, went to the town of Sunyani to witness to their own people there.

Youth Sunday School "Dead or Alive"

STUDENT MINISTER ROUNDTABLE AND TRAINING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2007

MCLAURIN HEIGHTS BC, PEARL, 6 P.M. SUPPER

6:45 P.M. SS ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

8 P.M. BREAKOUT SESSIONS

• DEVELOPING A YOUTH SS • STRENGTHENING YOUR YOUTH SS

DEVELOPING YOUTH SS LEADERS

• GUESTS: RICK MORTON - NOBTS

KEVIN BOLES - LOUISIANA BAPT. CONV. YOUTH STRATEGIST

ANDY MULLINS, STUDENT MINISTER AT MHBC

HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Gelstons honored, First Church, Lexington

year reunion and gospel singing of The Sons of Faith Quartet. Services Sept. 29, 6:30 p.m.

5. **High Hill Church, Neshoba County**, will host Good H2O Trio of Magee in concert Sept. 30, 6 p.m. A love offering will be received.

6. **Strong Hope Church, Wesson**, will host Hunt for the Crown, a Christian outdoors festival, Sept. 29. Contests, including skeet shooting, archery, casting, BB gun range, and obstacle course, 2-5 p.m.; food fellowship, 5 p.m.; worship service with Jon Gillis, 7 p.m.; for information, call (601) 894-4693 or 479-7087; bring own equipment, including ammo, for contests.

7. **First Church, Magnolia**, will recognize Elizabeth (Lib) Bankston Cutrer Schilling at a reception commemorating her 60th year as church organist Sept. 23, 7 p.m.

8. **First Church, Petal**, will hold a dedication celebration of their new facility Sept. 23,



2. Gulf Shores Youth Retreat, First Church, Glendale

with open house at 10 a.m. and service at 10:45 a.m.

9. **Hebron Church, Jones County**, will host Legacy of Faith and Ann Downing in concert Sept. 23, 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken. For more information, call (601) 722-4492

10. **Bethel Church, Bogue Chitto**, held a baby dedication July 29. Jeff Davis, pastor.

1. Roy and Dorothy Gelston were honored and presented a plaque by **First Church, Lexington** Sept. 9, for their service to the church. Roy Gelston served as Sunday School general secretary for over 40 years, and Dorothy Gelston served as church clerk for over 40 years, and served a number of years as church treasurer. Shown are Sammy Massey, Dorothy Gelston, Roy Gelston, and pastor Wes Bonner.

2. The youth from **First Church, Glendale, Hattiesburg**, participated in a back-to-school retreat in

Gulf Shores, Ala., Aug. 2-5. Shown are the participants.

3. **Houston Road Church, Laurel**, is hosting Judgment Day 2007, a Hurricane Katrina re-enactment that brings to life the reality of heaven and hell Oct. 26, 6:30-10 p.m.; Oct. 27, 2-10 p.m.; Oct. 28, 3-9 p.m.; and Oct. 31, 6:30-10 p.m. Group reservations at (601) 649-4349 or email hrbc@bellsouth.net. Concessions and t-shirts available for purchase.

4. **East Morton Church, Morton**, will host the 30

Bibliocipher

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ZPX BC VZKX EPIH BCI,
XZENBJCI, JBT YZKJB BZJB
UZXC JBCC OBHQC NH
KP SCZGC, ZPX AC
OBHQC HY JBT SQZNEC.

UZIR YKFC: JBKIJT-YHEI

Clue: X = D

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Twelve: Two.

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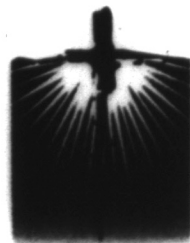
1. Deacon Ordination, Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg



2. Dedication of Fellowship Hall, Oak Grove Church, Shubuta



3. Choirs of First Church, Byram, First Church, Crystal Springs, and First Church Hazlehurst



MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

1. **Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg**, ordained James Spears, Jr., as deacon July 15. Spears and his wife Kathleen are shown first and second from right.
2. **Oak Grove Church, Shubuta**, celebrated their homecoming Aug. 19 with the dedication of their new fellowship hall. Shown are Clayton Holifield, Russell Smith, Mary Jenkins, Donnie Ivy, Gary Hearn, and pastor Terry Irby.
3. The combined choirs of **First Church, Byram**, **First Church, Crystal Springs**, and **First Church, Hazlehurst**, presented a service of worship for each of the three churches. Shown are the combined choirs.

REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

Beulah Church, Lexington: Centennial Homecoming, Sept. 23; services, 10 a.m., followed by noon lunch; shared memories and music, 1:30 p.m.; all friends and former pastors invited; bring pictures or other memorabilia.

Bunker Hill Church, Columbia: Revival, Sept. 30-Oct. 3; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jerry Mixon, speaker; Tim Morrison, music.

Damascus Church, Hazlehurst: Homecoming, Sept. 23; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish luncheon and fellowship; James McLemore, speaker; Randy Davis, pastor.

First Church, Chicora: Homecoming and revival; homecoming, Oct. 7; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and fellowship; revival, Oct. 14-17; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; James Dunnam, speaker; special music nightly.

Fredonia Church, New Albany: Homecoming, Sept. 30; services, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and fellowship; afternoon music, 1:30 p.m.; James Towery, speaker; Chris Aldridge, pastor.

Hope Church, Neshoba County: Homecoming, Sept. 23; services, 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch; Jerry Jones, speaker; Reuben and Faye Moore, music; Dennis Duvall, pastor.


Larue Church, Perkinston: Revival, Sept. 23-27; Sun., 11 a.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Don Savell, speaker; Burnice Havard, pastor.

Rawls Springs Church, Hattiesburg: Revival, Sept. 30-Oct. 3; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by meal and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Valton Douglas, speaker; Ken Hedgepeth, music; John Cockrell, pastor.

Sandy Hook Church, Marion County: Revival, Sept. 30-Oct. 3; Don Taylor, speaker; Archie Rawls, music; Don Taylor, pastor. For more information, call (601) 736-0045.

Sunrise Church, Carthage: Homecoming, Sept. 23; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; John Sanders, speaker; Tony Kinton, music; David Addy, pastor.

Weir Church, Weir: Homecoming, Sept. 30; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish meal and afternoon singing; Roy Hawkins, speaker; One Way Quartet, music; Jim Pender, pastor.



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MINISTER OF MUSIC AND EDUCATION needed: First Baptist Church, Boyle, Miss., is currently seeking a full-time minister of music and education. More details available. Contact us at fbchoyle@cableone.net. Send resumes via email or P.O. Box 218, Boyle, MS 38730.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH/ Music. Parkview Baptist Church, Greenville, MS is seeking a full-time minister of youth and/or music. Please send resume to Personnel Committee, 712 McAllister Street, Greenville, MS 38701 or email to parkviewp@bellsouth.net.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, located on 49 south in Braxton, Miss., seeking a part-time minister of music. Send resumes to Calvary Baptist Church, attn: music committee, P.O. Box 111, Braxton, MS 39044.

HICKORY RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH, Florence, Miss., is seeking a bi-vocational minister of music. Average church attendance 150. Please send resume to search committee, 1857 Florence Byram Rd., Florence, MS 39073. Or email to resume@hickoryridgebaptist.org.

CLEARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Florence, Miss., seeks a children's minister. Please submit resumes to M. Vance, 129 N. Eagle Ridge Drive, Florence, MS 39073.

ARKABUTLA BAPTIST CHURCH in northwest Mississippi is accepting resumes for the full-time position of Pastor. Resumes can be mailed to pastor search committee, c/o Ernie Lentz, 2951 Bend Road, Coldwater, MS 38618 or can be emailed to dooginsplace@bellsouth.net.

THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION is seeking qualified applicants for an accounting position(s). Accounting degree & trust-accounting experience preferred. Please send resume, complete with references, salary history, & pastor's recommendation, to MBF personnel administration, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Please visit our website at www.msbaaptistfoundation.org for more information about the Foundation.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHICORA, in Wayne County, seeking a part-time youth minister. Send resumes to FBC of Chicora, 1787 Buckatunna Chicora Clara Rd., Buckatunna, MS 39322.

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Handling Success Successfully

Daniel 4:1-37 (Focal Passages: 4:4-5, 28-37)

By Alice Smith

Pride is rearing its ugly head. C. S. Lewis, in "Mere Christianity," terms pride, or self-conceit, as "the great sin." It is the very opposite of humility. Lewis says, "Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind. If we really get in touch with God we will be humble — delightfully humble. We will get rid of the false self, with all its 'Look at me' and all its posing and posturing. If you meet a truly humble man you will notice that he is not thinking about himself at all. The first step is to realize you are proud. If you think you are not conceited, it means you are very conceited indeed. It was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice (or sin)."

As we explore this study of prideful Nebuchadnezzar, let us see ourselves in the harsh light of God's reality.

To quote a famous preacher, Dr. H.A. Ironside, "In this stirring chapter, written by Nebuchadnezzar himself, we have a very interesting account of the means God used to bring this haughty king to the end of himself, and lead him to abase himself before the Majesty in the heavens." God speaks to Nebuchadnezzar a third time through yet another dream. You will recall that the first two dreams impacted him but did not humble him. They did not penetrate his extremely inflated belief in his own magnificence.

In his dream, he recounts that a great tree grew strong and



Smith

reached to heaven. It was wonderful and provided food for all and shelter to the birds of the air and all flesh was fed from it. Then a "holy one" came down from heaven and commanded that the tree be destroyed except for the stump of its roots in the earth. And then in

Chapter 4, verses 15-17 (HCSB), he foretells that "he would be drenched with dew from the sky and share the plants of the earth with the animals, and he would be given the mind of an animal for seven periods of time. So that the living will know that the Most High is ruler over the kingdom of men."

Daniel, stunned, carefully phrases his interpretation of the dream to Nebuchadnezzar in verses 19-27. He tells the king that the tree symbolizes him. That he is great and encompassing to the ends of the earth, but the sentence of the Most High has been levied against the king. Great Nebuchadnezzar will be

driven away from the people and he will live with the wild animals for a period of time until he acknowledges that the Most High is ruler over all and can give control and power to whomever He chooses. He tells Nebuchadnezzar that when he acknowledges God his kingdom will be restored. He advises the king to "separate himself from his sins by doing what is right, from his injustices, by showing mercy to the needs of the people, so that there may be an extension of his prosperity."

Nebuchadnezzar did not heed this advice and one year later, while basking in his own glory and accomplishments, God implements his penalty for his pride and conceit. At the end of those days of depravity, as foretold, his mind returned to him and this strutting king, now humbled, looked up into Heaven and praised the Most High God, honoring and glorifying Him. Read verses 34-37 and be amazed at the repentance of this pagan king. Verse 37 (HCSB) says, "Now I, Nebuchadnezzar,

praise, exalt, and glorify the King of heaven, because His works are true and His ways are just, And He is able to humble those who walk in pride."

We see this world-ruler humbled before the people. And it is in his humility that we see this once conceited monarch turning to God.

Now, we must examine our hearts. Proverbs 23:7(KJV) says, "As he thinketh in his heart, so is he." It is only in our private relationship with God that we bare our hearts and souls, asking for His forgiveness for this sin of pride.

God has placed an instinctive knowledge of right and wrong in us. We have a soul that communicates with our Creator. God desires a relationship with us. He is holy and righteous. He is Goodness. He hates evil. Our response to our Creator is faith in Him, with true humility, in recognition of our total unworthiness of His Love. He is all there is.

Smith is a member of First Church, Jackson.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Always Trust Christ

Matthew 8:1-3, 23-27; 9:1-8

By Michael Smith

My 5-year-old daughter monopolizes prayer time in my household. She loves to pray and is always prepared to launch into prayer. On most occasions she resorts to the golden oldie: "God is great, God is good; let us thank him for our food. By his hand we are fed; thank you Lord for daily bread." Folks who have been around the block a few times would refer to this classic prayer as "returning thanks." Irrespective of the occasion for prayer, my daughter always "returns thanks." When we pray for missionaries, she "returns thanks." When we pray for the sick, she "returns thanks." When we pray for our family and our church, she "returns thanks." When we pray for President Bush, we get: "God is great, God is good;

let us thank him for our food. By his hands we are fed; thank you Lord for daily bread."

Unbeknownst to my daughter, when she "returns thanks," she encapsulates the foundational truth that saturates the pages of the Bible — the goodness and greatness of God. The simple words of this sweet prayer also answers the question posed by the alarmed disciples in Matthew 8:27: "What kind of man is this?" The disciples, whose stomachs were still churning from the wild ride on the raging sea, were amazed at Jesus' ability to control the normally uncontrollable weather. They were left wondering what kind of man could speak the wild winds and sea into submission. What kind of person is Jesus? This question is answered in three miracle stories.



Smith

1. When you are ailing (Matthew 8:1-3)

What kind of person is Jesus? He is the kind of person that you can trust when you are faced with illness. Jesus was not unfamiliar with leprosy, because he, more than most, interacted

with those stricken with the highly contagious and dreaded disease. Those with leprosy were treated like "lepers." They were ostracized and reviled. Lepers knew their place in society and rarely reached out of their pit of despair for a helping hand. This particular leper did reach out for a helping hand realizing that Jesus could cleanse him of the incurable skin disease. The question of Jesus' ability was never an issue for this desperate leper. The leper's only uncertainty was Jesus' compassionate willingness to do what only he could do. The leper's frantic question was met with a tender reply: "I am willing." Because of his goodness, Jesus was willing to reach out to the outcast.

Because of his greatness, Jesus was able to cleanse the leper of his horrendous disease.

2. When you are in danger (Matthew 8:23-27)

What kind of person is Jesus? He is the kind of person that you can trust when you are in a dangerous situation. On more than one occasion Jesus' disciples were in a boat, in a storm, and in danger. On more than one occasion, Jesus delivered the disciples from imminent danger and impending doom. Jesus had the power to tame the wild wind and the furious sea. As spectators of Jesus' remarkable ability to demand obedience from the obstinate weather, the disciples were dumbfounded. With wide-eye amazement, all the disciples could do was to ask: "What kind of man is this?" On another occasion, when the disciples were in a boat, in a storm, and in danger, they answered their own question when they declared: "Truly you are the Son of God" (Matthew 14:33, NIV). Because of his goodness, Jesus was willing to deliver the disciples out

of danger. Because of his greatness, Jesus was able to calm the dangerous winds and sea.

3. When you need forgiveness (Matthew 9:1-8)

What kind of person is Jesus? He is the only person who can forgive our sins. Jesus chose his words carefully when he declared to the paralytic: "Your sins are forgiven." Though he could have chosen any number of expressions to heal the paralytic, he chose words that would reveal his greater purpose for coming into this world and his authority to fulfill that purpose. Many people benefited from Jesus' authority to heal the sick and cast out demons; however, these many demonstrations of Jesus' ability to heal the body were always secondary to Jesus' ability to save the sinner's soul. Because of his greatness, Jesus is able to forgive sins. Because of his goodness, Jesus was willing to die on a cross so that you and I may be forgiven of our sins.

Smith is pastor of Bethel Church, Monticello.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will

be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

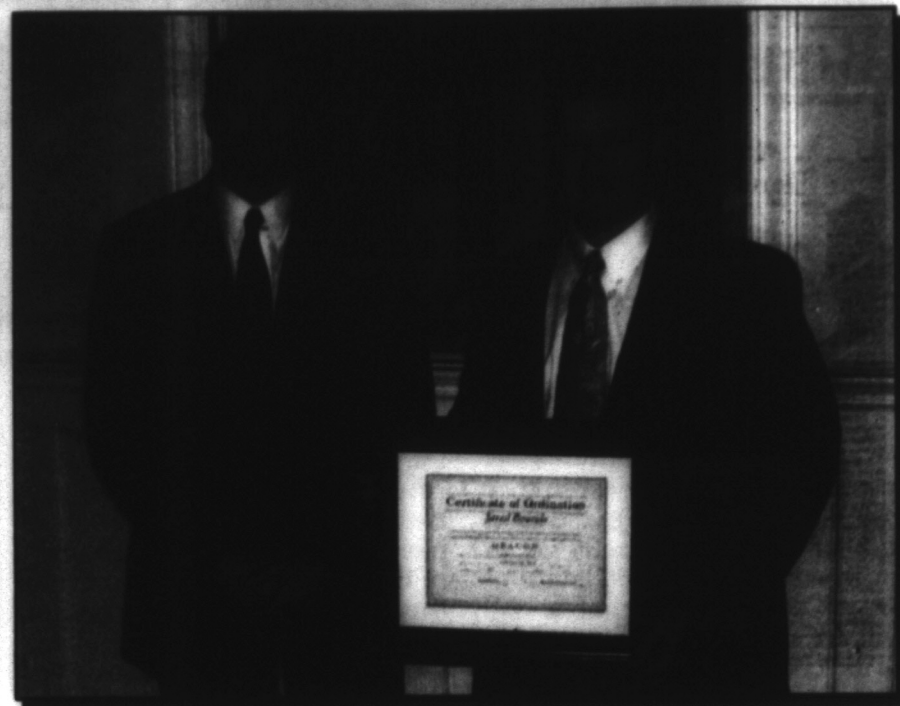
Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST
Record

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Youth in Action party, Damascus Church, Flora



2. Deacon Ordination, Auburn Church, Tupelo



3. Bible Drillers, Pleasant Home Church, Jones County

1. Damascus Church, Flora, held its annual Damascus Youth in Action party, Sept. 12, to kickoff the New Year for their youth. Activities included a jumping tent, dunking booth, games, food and fellowship. Shown are the participants. Sonny Bradshaw, pastor; Lora Lee Douglas, youth director.

2. Auburn Church, Tupelo, ordained Jared Bounds as deacon Aug. 19. Shown are pastor David Singleton and Bounds.

3. Pleasant Home Church, Jones County, recognizes its Bible Drillers. Shown are Joshua Stamps, Brittany Matthews, Bailey Brown, and Mandy Hester.

4. Navilla Church, McComb, hosted IMB missionaries to Romania Dwayne and Donna Brown, during the church's senior August luncheon. Navilla is the Brown's home church.



6. Youth Bible Drillers, Williamsville Church, Williamsville

5. Calvary Church, Oak Grove, recently ordained Chuck Mitchell as deacon. Front, Mitchell and pastor Jeff Floyd; rear, Andy McLain, Gary Prach, and Cole Turner.

6. Williamsville Church, Williamsville recognizes youth Bible drillers Sara Papisan and Samantha Clark.



4. IMB Missionaries speak at Navilla Church, McComb



4. Deacon Ordination, Calvary Church, Oak Grove

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



VBS Participants, Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson

Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson: Total enrollment, 122; average attendance, 98; nine professions of faith; Kim Lowery, VBS director; Paul G. Jones, pastor. Shown are the participants.